

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00701 281820Z
ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0701

EXDIS

GENEVA FOR ASST SECRETARY MAYNES

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, EG
SUBJECT: ILO- EGYPTIAN OFFER

REF: (A) GENEVA 6323, (B) STATE 174001

FOLLOWING IS FROM AMBASSADOR IN ALEXANDRIA

1. SHARE ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES' VIEWS SET FORTH REF A.
GIVEN POSITIONS OF BOTH SIDES, I WOULD NOT WISH TO SUGGEST
THERE IS EXTENSIVE SCOPE FOR MEETING OF THE MINDS. SEEMS TO ME,
HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BY CAUTIOUS PROBE ON HOW FAR
EGYPTIANS MIGHT BE WILLING TO GO.

2. ALTHOUGH NO DEFINITIVE CONCLUSIONS REACHED FAHMY/MAYNES
TALKS WERE GRATIFYING POSITIVE IN TONE. APPEARANCES AT
GENEVA NOTWITHSTANDING, GOE DOES NOT SEEK DELIBERATE CONFRONTATION
WITH US ON ILO ISSUES. INSTEAD, IT SOUGHT TO PROTECT WHAT IT
PERCEIVES TO BE ITS OWN INTERESTS. IT IS A REGRETTABLE
REALITY THAT IN ANSENCE MORE APPRECIABLE PROGRESS ON ME PEACE,
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EGYPTIAN INTERESTS TEND TO BE CASE IN TERMS OF WHAT ARE
ESSENTIALLY ANTI-ISRAELI POSTURES. AS FREQUENTLY REPORTED, GOE VIEWS
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING ILO, AS FORA IN WHICH IT
CAN SCORE POINTS ON WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE ISRAEL INTR-
ANSIGENCE. IF WE CANNOT DISSUADE GOE FROM SUCH TACTICS, WE CAN
AT LEAST TRY TO PARRY OR BLUNT IT EFFORT. SO FAR AS ILO IS
CONCERNED, GOE DOES NOT ACCEPT OUR VIEW THAT IT IS PRIMARILY

A TECHNICAL ORGANIZATION. IT VIEWS LABOR, DOMESTICE AND INTER-NATIONAL AS INTENSELY POLITICAL. IF WE INTEND PROBE GOE INTENTIONS, WE SHOULD BEAR THESE FACTORS IN MIND.

3. CONTRARY TO SUGGESTION REF B, I DO NOT INTERPRET FAHMY OFFER TO MAYNES AS IMPLYING ANY INTENTION TOTALLY REVERSE GOE POSITION. HE IS AWARE THAT EGYPTIANS AND THEIR FRIENDS HAVE HAD A RESOUNDING VICTORY, BUT HE IS NOT DISPOSED DELIBERALLY TO TRY FOR MORE POINTS. HE BELIEVES WE HAVE UNWISELY PAINTED OURSELVES INTO A CORNER. HE IS NOT BEGGING US NOT TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO, BUT CONSIDERS ANY SUCH ACTION ON OUR PART AS SHORTSIGHTED AND SELF DEFESTING. IN ABOVE CONTEXT, HE IS WILLING TO EXPLORE WHETHER THERE IS SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY IN OUR POSITION TO ALLOW A MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATION TO TAKE PLACE. AS HE SEES IT, THIS WOULD REQUIRE COMPROMISE BY BOTH SIDES. WHETHER MUTUAL AREA OF MANEUVER BETWEEN OUR TWO POSITIONS IS SUFFICIENTLY BROAD TO ALLOW WORKING OUT A DEAL CAN ONLY BE ANSWERED BY TESTING.

4. AM NOT COMPETENT COMMENT ON PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS MENTIONED REFTELS, IF, HOWEVER DECISION IS MADE TO PROBE EXTENT OF FAHMY'S WILLINGNESS WORK WITH US, TWO POSSIBILITIES PRESENT THEMSELVES: (A) SECRETARY MIGHT RAISE SUBJECT WITH FAHMY ON UPCOMING TRIP. (B) WE MIGHT THEN BE INSTRUCTED FOLLOW UP MAYNES TALK BY ASKING GOE SPECIFICS OF WHAT IT MIGHT BE WILLING TO DO, AND OR OTHER WAY SUGGESTIONS WE MIGHT HAVE.
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CHASE

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Message Attributes

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